CASTLE RIVER

SUB-REGIONAL

INTEGRATED RESOURCE PLAN

ANNUAL REPORT
1987/1988

September 1988

Alberta
FORESTRY, LANDS AND WILDLIFE

Southern Region
Regional Resource Management Committee

CASTLE RIVER

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ANNUAL REPORT
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1.0 INTRODUCTION

This document provides an overview of the resource management and development activities that have occurred under the Castle River Sub-regional Integrated Resource Plan (IRP) from May 1987 to April 1988. Information in this report is current to that date only. Completion of this annual report fulfills one requirement of the approved implementation framework for integrated resource plans.

In describing the plan implementation the report deals alphabetically with the resource sectors identified in the IRP, summarizing for each the various activities of the involved government agencies. Only those resource sectors for which implementation activities have occurred are identified. In addition to addressing those activities that have taken place specifically as a result of the IRP, this report also contains a summary of the ongoing operational activities of the involved agencies in the IRP area.

2.0 ACCESS

2.1 Access Management Plan (AMP)

Project/ Activity:	- Production of an access management plan providing operational level direction for the recreational use of on-and off-highway vehicles in the Castle River sub-region.
Participants:	- A public involvement process for plan development is being finalized by the Alberta Forest Service (AFS) along with the Alberta Fish & Wildlife (F&W) and Public Lands (Lands) divisions. A background information package is being completed by the AFS for use by public interest groups, industry and others identified to participate in plan development. Provincial government agencies and local authorities will be contacted and advised of the project before plan development. There will be a general public review of the access management plan before any recommendations are acted upon. Plan development will be co-ordinated by the AFS.
Anticipated Activities, 1987-1988:	- Information assembly and preparation of AMP background information package; development of a public involvement process; and identification of participants in plan development.
Results Achieved:	- Regional/district staff who participated in plan development became familiar with project objectives, the assembled background information, and the public involvement/ participation process.
Anticipated Activities, 1988-1989:	- Finalize public involvement/participation process and communications plan; develop AMP with public interest groups industry and government (co-operative basis); general public review and initiate approval process for developed AMP.

3.0 FISHERIES

3.1 Habitat Development

3.1.1 Mitigation by Industry

Project/Activity:	- As required, mitigation of adverse impacts on habitat resulting from industrial development or construction projects.
Participants:	- F&W in association with industrial companies and other departments.
Anticipated Activities, 1987-1988	- Develop and implement mitigation plans as necessary.
Results Achieved:	- As mitigation for a pipeline reburial, Palmer Ranch installed three root-balls in Yarrow Creek to provide trout cover. - Alberta Transportation and Utilities provided boulders for instream placement of trout cover, as mitigation for their bridge crossing (SR. 507) on Castle River. On the same road upgrading project, they placed baffles within a culvert in an attempt to provide fish passage. The existing culvert had been a fish barrier; upgrading would have made it worse. - As mitigation for a pipeline crossing, Shell Canada Ltd. installed three rock V-sills and one log V-sill on Whitney Creek to provide trout cover.
Anticipated Activities, 1988-1989:	- Ongoing mitigation projects as required.

3.1.2 Alberta Fish & Wildlife Division/Industry Joint Ventures

Project/Activity:	- Co-operative habitat development projects with industry and other jurisdictions.
Participants:	- F&W in association with various companies and authorities.
Anticipated Activities, 1987-1988:	- Undertake fisheries habitat enhancement projects on North Drywood Creek and Prairie Bluff and Ruby lakes.

Results Achieved:

- Eight structures were installed on North Drywood Creek to improve trout habitat. This project repaired habitat damaged by a July flood and is intended to prevent future damage. Shell Canada Ltd. provided the 40 boulders required for the project.

- Work was started on a project to provide a trout fishery at Prairie Bluff Lake. This involved draining the lake, excavating to remove organic soil and improving the morphometry, and constructing dykes. This will create a deeper, larger lake with improved overwintering capacity for trout. Shell Canada Ltd. contributed $60 000 towards the cost of the project. The M.D. of Pincher Creek contributed $3000 for a parking area.

- A log K-dam was constructed at the outlet of Ruby Lake to raise the water level and improve the overwintering capacity for trout.

Anticipated Activities, 1988-1989:

- The Prairie Bluff Lake project will be completed and filled with water. An inspection will be made of the Ruby Lake outlet structure and repairs will be conducted if necessary.

3.2 Stream and Lake Inventories

Project/Activity:

- Inventory of fish populations in streams and lakes.

Participants:

- F&W.

Anticipated Activities, 1987-1988:

- Undertake fisheries population estimates on the West Castle River, Mami, Barnaby and Southforks lakes.

Results Achieved:

- Population estimates were made on the West Castle River for sport fishery management purposes. There were 550 cutthroat trout per kilometre (insufficient bull trout and mountain whitefish were captured for valid population estimates).

- Mami Lake was test netted with a standard gang of gill nets to monitor the status of fish populations. The catch consisted of 58 rainbow trout, 36 longnose suckers and 156 white suckers.

- A survey crew was airlifted into Barnaby and Southforks lakes in August to assess the fish population, but poor weather (rain, fog and snow) prevented completion of the assessment.

Anticipated Activities, 1988-1989:

- Estimate fish populations in West Castle River.

- Assess the golden trout population in Rainy Ridge Lake.

4.0 RANGE

4.1 Livestock Management, Resource Management Areas (RMAs) A,B,C & D

Project/Activity:	- Manage domestic livestock to achieve uniform forage use; - Maintain healthy range condition, intensify range management practices; - Identify areas suitable for forage production on a sustained yield basis; and - Note areas critical for the maintenance of wildlife in the area.
Participants:	- AFS lead. Consultation with F&W and Lands.
Anticipated Activities, 1987-1988:	- Develop and/or update range management plans for allotments and leased land in the Castle River sub-region.
Results Achieved:	- Six management plans for leased lands in the White Area have been prepared and referred. At a Regional Resource Management Committee (RRMC) meeting in January 1988 it was approved that these plans be put on hold for two years. - No revisions of range management plans occurred for the Castle River, Southend, Mill Creek and Jackson Creek allotments.
Anticipated Activities, 1988-1989:	- Conduct range inventory of cutblocks in the Gladstone Creek area.

4.2 Stocking Levels, RMAs A,B,C & D

Project Activity:	- Maintain 1977 stocking levels.
Participants:	- AFS lead.
Anticipated Activities, 1987-1988:	- Identify sites suitable for range improvement. - Perform range improvement contingent on funding availability. - Establish long-term maintenance program.
Results Achieved:	- No range improvement or maintenance work occurred.
Anticipated Activities, 1988/1989:	- Monitor stocking rates and assess range condition.

- Implement range improvement work.

- Implement range maintenance program.

4.3 Range Management, RMA E

Project/Activity:
- Periodic lease inspections and renewals as required.

Participants:
- Lands lead. Consultation with F&W and AFS as required.

Anticipated Activities, 1987-1988:
- Address inspections and renewals as they arise.

Results Achieved:
- A single lease inspection was made. Staff undertook an overall assessment of grazing management on the lease to ensure good maintenance of the range.

- Three lease renewals were made. Staff evaluated past lease management practices in each case and established conditions as necessary to ensure good range management in the future.

Anticipated Activities, 1988-1989:
- Two grazing lease renewal applications and 18 grazing lease/permit periodic inspections are projected.

4.4 Range Improvement, RMA E

Project/Activity:
- Undertaking a wide variety of range improvement projects such as brushing, controlling regrowth and pasture seeding.

Participants:
- Lands lead. Consultation with F&W and AFS.

Anticipated Activities, 1987-1988:
- A combination of producing range development plans, brushing projects and spraying and seeding projects on nine leases.

Results Achieved:
- Range development plans were produced for three leases, brushing projects were undertaken on three leases and three leases were sprayed for regrowth and seeded.

Anticipated Activities, 1988-1989:
- A continuation of range improvement activities on the same nine leases. Projects will include brushing, spraying and seeding, and burning and repiling of windrows.

5.0 RECREATION

5.1 Private Sector Developments and Commercial Operations

Project/Activity:
- Providing opportunities for the private sector to develop and/or operate facilities or services consistent with the recreation intent of the area.

Participants:
- AFS lead.

Anticipated Activities, 1987-1988:
- Development and operation of private sector facilities.
- Issuance of Commercial Trail Riding permits.

Results Achieved:
- Issued two Commercial Trail Riding permits. These permits accounted for 1001 visitor nights.
- Gladstone Guest Ranch completed construction of a replacement lodge.

Anticipated Activities, 1988-1989:
- To encourage future opportunities for private sector involvement in the development and operations of facilities and services.
- Monitor existing operations.

5.2 Back-country Management

Project/Activity:
- Monitoring Back-country use:
  (1) to ensure use/operations are carried out as per provincial regulations and policy;
  (2) to identify trails and campsites where maintenance or mitigation measures are required; and
  (3) to meet users in the field and establish use levels and patterns.

Participants:
AFS lead.

Anticipated Activities, 1987-1988:
- Identifying management concerns and instilling users with a better land ethic through educational programs.

Results Achieved:

- Forest guardians conducted inventory and identified approximately 250 random campsites.
- Weekly patrols conducted by forest guardians.
- Minor trail maintenance performed.
- Litter was cleaned up at various campsites.

Anticipated Activities, 1988-1989:

- Development and implementation of a more formal back-country patrol program.
- Continuation of monitoring and clean-up program.

5.3 Facilities and Opportunities

Project/Activity:

- Increase recreational opportunities by providing a wide range of high quality, accessible and affordable facilities.

Participants:

- AFS lead.

Anticipated Activities, 1987-1988:

- Provision of new facilities to complement existing and/or provide additional opportunities.
- Operation and maintenance of existing facilities to provincial standards.

Results Achieved:

- No new facilities were developed.
- Upgrading of Lynx Creek was completed and the upgrade of Syncline Group Camp was initiated.

Anticipated Activities, 1988-1989:

- Completion of the Syncline Group Camp upgrading.
- Contingent on funding availability, continuation of current levels of service and maintenance to ensure provincial standards are maintained at designated facilities.

6.0 TIMBER

6.1 Forest Protection

Project Activity:	- Protecting the forest from fire, insects and disease.
Participant:	- AFS.
Anticipated Activities, 1987-1988:	- Adherence to a comprehensive fire management plan.
Results Achieved:	- One fire in 1987 - DB6-07-87 - LSI-21-5-3-W5M - Spot in Size (1/10 ha)
	- Mountain pine beetle infestation has remained stagnant, no treatment required.
	- All objectives met.
Anticipated Activities, 1988-1989:	- Same as for 1987-1988.

6.2 Reforestation

Project Activity:	- Reforestation of lands in the sustained yield timber base.
Participant:	- AFS.
Anticipated Activities, 1987-1988:	- Reforestation of all cutover areas in accordance with provincial regulation.
Results Achieved:	- Grass trail plots on McClelland Lease were read.
	- Research Branch established succession plots (managed versus unmanaged in various mountain pine beetle locations in the old C3 MU)
	- Planting: 45.2 ha - 34 125 trees.
	- Regeneration surveys: 146.9 ha.
	- Serial Seeding: 10.0 ha.
	- Genetics section conducted Douglas fir inventory.

Anticipated Activities, 1988-1989:

- Ongoing monitoring of Providence Trail sites.

1. Free to grow surveys: 21 blocks - 359.7 ha.
2. Regeneration surveys: 58 blocks - 879.4 ha.
3. Planting: 22 blocks - 336.8 ha - 253 300 trees.
4. Genetics: tree improvement program - discing and planting at the Castle site (about 400 m form the junction of the Castle and Beaver Mines access roads).

6.3 Timber Harvesting

Project/Activity:

- Integrating logging with other land use activities through forest management plans.
- Using landscape logging and other aesthetic harvesting practices as appropriate.

Participant:

- AFS.

Anticipated Activities, 1987-1988:

- Maintaining the annual allowable cut.
- Recognizing aesthetic considerations in cut block layout.

Results Achieved:

- Referrals for timber harvest on C51-L1 (Goat Creek) have been completed.
- A total of 25 Local Timber permits and 187 Forest Products permits were issued for a total of 2500 m3 of wood.

Anticipated Activities, 1988-1989:

- No cruising programs are anticipated.
- It is expected that about the same number of timber permits will be issued for 1987-1988.

7.0 WATERSHED

7.1 Watershed Reclamation

Project/Activity:	- Maintaining water quality.
	- Minimizing upland soil erosion and stream sedimentation.
Participants:	- AFS lead.
Anticipated Activities, 1987-1988:	- Reclamation of land use disturbances to the point where they are no longer eroding.
Results Achieved:	- No reclamation work was undertaken.
Anticipated Activities, 1988-1989:	- A reclamation program will be developed in conjunction with F&W and implemented following approval of the access management plan.

7.2 Water Sampling

Project/Activity:	- Evaluating the effectiveness of ground rules for controlling stream sedimentation.
	- Identification of areas needing remedial erosion control in salvaged areas damaged by mountain pine beetle.
Participants:	- AFS lead.
Anticipated Activities, 1987-1988:	- Monitoring the South Castle River and Goat, Gladstone and Whitney creeks.
Results Achieved:	- Gladstone Valley monitoring completed in 1986.
	- Other projects were for background data only.
Anticipated Activities, 1988-1989:	- In the immediate future, there will be no further monitoring in Castle River area except in the Goat Creek area. The Gladstone Valley results will be analyzed and a report completed by June 1988.

8.0 WILDLIFE

8.1 Elk Winter Range

Project/Activity:	- Evaluation of the condition of the winter range used by the Castle/Carbondale elk herd.
Participants:	- F&W lead.
Anticipated Activities, 1987-1988:	- Undertake preliminary assessment of range condition.
Results Achieved:	- Preliminary fieldwork revealed several areas in both the White Area and forest reserve where there is excessive use of forage. Lands and AFS were informed of these initial results and requested to assist with a more detailed examination of forage use on identified problem sites.
Anticipated Activities, 1988-1989:	- Continued monitoring of range conditions.

8.2 Mountain Goats

Project/Activity:	- Determination of the mountain goat population south of Highway 3.
Participants:	- F&W.
Anticipated Activities, 1987-1988:	- Summer count of mountain goats.
Results Achieved:	- A joint aerial survey along the continental divide with the B.C. Fish & Wildlife branch found 42 goats; this is considerably lower than the 1986 count of 108 observed in the same area. It is believed that behaviour of the goats at the time of the survey resulted in a lower count rather than an actual decline in goat numbers. Six licenses to hunt mountain goat were issued for the 1987 season. Due to a decline in goat numbers in the northern part of the Alberta range and the small number of licenses in southern Alberta, the goat season will be closed in 1988.
Anticipated Activities, 1988-1989:	- An aerial survey is scheduled to continue the monitoring of mountain goat populations.

9.0 ONGOING ADMINISTRATIVE AND OPERATIONAL ACTIVITIES

9.1 Introduction

Day-to-day administrative and management activity often takes place that is not specifically related to the Castle River IRP. The IRP, nevertheless, constitutes the framework within which all this activity takes place and in some cases, such as the review of disposition applications and other referrals, the link with the IRP may be quite explicit. Accordingly, a summary of ongoing divisional operation activities is included below.

9.2 Alberta Forest Service

Activity:

- Ensuring that land use activities are integrated and conform with the management intent for the Castle River planning area.

Anticipated Activities, 1987-1988:

- Approval, approval with conditions or rejection.

Results Achieved:

Number and Type of Forest Land Use Referrals:

3 - Mineral Surface Lease
1 - Miscellaneous Permit
5 - Geophysical
3 - Pipeline Agreement
2 - Easement
1 - Licence of Occupation
2 - Herbicide Applications
3 - Commercial Trail Riding Permits
3 - Reservations
7 - Amendments

Total = 30 Referrals

Anticipated Activities, 1988-1989:

- Increased activity along the easterly portion of the RMA ranging from geophysical operations to resource development activities (Mineral Surface Leases, Licences of Occupation, Pipeline Agreements).

9.3 Fish & Wildlife

9.3.1 Referrals

Number and Type of Land Use Referrals

5	Mineral Surface Lease
1	Licence of Occupation
5	Pipeline Agreement
3	Geophysical
1	Miscellaneous Permit
2	Highways
4	Water Resources
1	Grazing
3	Easements
25	Total Referrals

9.3.2 Fisheries Surveys

Creel data were again collected, whenever possible, by Fish and Wildlife and/or Park Division staff on a number of locations in the Castle River IRP area. The following summarizes data collected in 1987.

1. Creel data were collected from three main lakes in the Castle River IRP area. Data are summarized below:

LAKE	NO. OF CENSUS DAYS	NO. OF ANGLERS INTERVIEWED	TOTAL HOURS FISHED	TOTAL RB TROUT CAUGHT	C.U.E. (FISH/ HOUR)
Beaver Mines Lake	73	684	1433	621	0.43
Beauvais Lake	29	166	350	247	0.70
Mami Lake	27	474	1277	500	0.39

2. Streams - Creel data were collected by Fish and Wildlife Enforcement staff from a number of streams in the Castle River IRP area: Carbondale, Lynx, West Castle, Lost, South Castle and Castle. A total of 92 anglers were checked and they caught 29 cutthroat, five mountain whitefish, two bull trout and one rainbow trout.

3. An intensive creel survey was carried out on the West Castle River using a three-person STEP (Student Temporary Employee Program) crew in June, July and August 1987: 910 anglers were interviewed and they caught 2521 fish (94 per cent were cutthroat trout). The catch rate for the summer was 0.95

fish per hour but because 77 per cent were below legal size, they were returned. Catch rate of fish kept was 0.21 fish/hour.

4. High Mountain Lakes - Volunteer creel boxes were maintained by helicopter at Rainy Ridge Lake and on the trail to Barnaby and Upper and Lower Southfork lakes in 1987. Creel data have yet to be analyzed, but angling pressure appears to be down from previous years.

9.3.3 Wildlife Occurrences

Number and Type of Wildlife Support Occurrences

9	Beaver
20	Bear
2	Cougar
13	Ungulate
2	Waterfowl
2	Wolf
12	Others
60	Total

9.3.4 Major Contingencies

Shell Prairie Bluff Wells: Fish and Wildlife staff attended an Energy Resource Conservation Board hearing as observers. Fish and Wildlife staff conducted operational inspections, assessment and planning, and advised Shell on terms of reference for a consultant study to assess bighorn sheep use of the Prairie Bluff complex in a regional context.

9.4 Public Lands

The following administrative duties were carried out in RMA-E:

- Requests for land exchange..... 1
- Grazing lease renewal applications..... 3
- Grazing lease/permit periodic inspections..... 1
- Range improvement projects..... 9
- Miscellaneous lease applications..... 2
- Mineral surface lease applications/inspections..... 1
- Pipeline agreements/inspections..... 8
- License of occupation applications/inspections..... 1
- Geophysical applications/inspections..... 4
- Reclamation certificates..... 6

10.0 HOUSEKEEPING CHANGES/AMENDMENTS

10.1 Background

As reported in the 1987-1988 annual report, there have been extensive discussions between the Coal Association of Canada, the Energy Resources Conservation Board and agencies of the provincial government as part of the process of revising the 1977 A Coal Development Policy for Alberta. A new coal policy has not been adopted as of the date of publication of this annual report, but these discussions have resulted in senior management within Alberta Forestry, Lands and Wildlife providing new direction to the integrated resource planning program on how coal exploration and development should be addressed in IRPs. This revised direction has been incorporated in recently approved IRPs such as the Livingstone-Porcupine Hill Sub-Regional IRP, (the other approved sub-regional IRP in the southern region).

The new direction to the planning program can be summarized as follows:

1. Exploration and development will be considered as separate activities in IRPs.

2. IRPs will continue to identify Yes/No development areas anywhere, based on both renewable resource and coal, quarriable and metallic minerals potentials. In this situation, a "no" will preclude both development and exploration.

3. In areas where there is insufficient resource information to make a clear Yes/No determination, IRPs will identify the renewable resource interests at stake. They will permit exploration, subject to mitigation through conditions set by the regulatory process, so that more information may be gained about the non-renewable resource prior to a decision on development. The decision about whether or not to allow development will then be made through the Preliminary Disclosure/regulatory process. If the decision is not to allow development (following exploration on an existing agreement), applications will be accepted under the Mineral Rights Compensation Regulations.

4. IRPs will leave the identification of particular exploration or development conditions to the regulatory process.

5. Notwithstanding (2) above, IRPs will determine the appropriateness of coal exploration in Zone 1 on a case-by-case basis where leases presently exist.

This direction has led to requests, by agencies involved in the planning program, for changes to the Castle River IRP in order to make it consistent with the way direction for the exploration and development of coal resources is now handled in IRPs. The following section describes the procedures that are in place for guiding the manner in which changes to IRPs should be addressed.

10.2 Changing IRPs

It is obvious that if plans are treated as if they are mandatory, then they will be superceded by events and their value compromised. It is equally obvious that plan content will be compromised if changed arbitrarily. Accordingly, it is necessary to define just how firm and flexible plans will be.

This subject is addressed in a document dealing with the implementation stage of the planning process*. The document recognizes that: while plans are in effect they must be adhered to; plans can be changed to reflect changing conditions and circumstances; such change can range from the very minor to the very substantial; and all change must be addressed reasonably, equitably and with appropriate accountability. The following basic kinds of changes are recognized.

> **Housekeeping Revisions:** non-contentious corrections or updates requiring neither public discussion nor senior management approval. Typical situations include corrections or editorial clarifications; guideline modifications where a plan objective can be more effectively met in another way than the one prescribed; and adjustments necessary to ensure plan compliance with new policies, regulations or acts. The RRMC is responsible for housekeeping revisions and these must be publicly reported in plan annual report documents.
>
> **Amendments:** all changes not considered to be housekeeping revisions. Amendments include any modification resulting in a significant change to allowed resource uses or to the priority given to resource uses in all or part of the planning area. Amendments will usually be addressed by interdepartmental referral and public review, and require ministerial or cabinet committee approval.

The following section describes how recent requests for changes to the Castle River IRP were addressed by the Southern RRMC.

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* Integrated Resource Plans: Implementation, Amendment and Review, July 1987, Resource Planning Branch.

10.3 Requests for Changes

Five requests for changes to the Castle River IRP were dealt with by the Regional Resource Management Committee (RRMC). The RRMC's recommendations to each of the requests were endorsed by the Resource Management Division Heads Committee (assistant deputy ministers in Alberta Energy/Forestry, Lands and Wildlife). The changes are summarized below, page references refer to the Castle River Sub-Regional Integrated Resource Plan. (Alberta Energy and Natural Resources, Edmonton 1985).

ITEM: Table of Compatible Activities (Table 2, p. 21).

Request: Revise the table to show coal exploration and development activities separately.

Change Requested By: Mineral Resources Division, Alberta Department of Energy.

Response: Table (overleaf) changed as requested.

Kind of Change: Housekeeping - the change does not affect plan content (the permitted status for the various activities identified is exactly the same in the table for both coal exploration and development).

Rationale: The change is consistent with senior management direction and brings the Castle River IRP in line with subsequently approved eastern slope's IRPs.

ITEM: Guideline 2, p. 51.

In view of the significance of the O'Hagan-Adanac resource management area for the protection of elk and mule deer winter range, only underground development of coal reserves will be encouraged. However, surface mining may be considered on a site-by-site basis by the Alberta Cabinet in response to a Preliminary Disclosure.

Request: This guideline prohibits surface coal mining. Rewrite to relate only to compatibility of coal development, noting that the decision on development and the setting of conditions will be handled through preliminary disclosures and the regulatory process.

Change Requested By: Mineral Resources Division, Alberta Department of Energy and the Energy Resources Conservation Board.

TABLE 1. COMPATIBLE ACTIVITIES BY LAND USE ZONE

ZONE / ACTIVITY	1 PRIME PROTECTION	2 CRITICAL WILDLIFE	3 SPECIAL USE	4 GENERAL RECREATION	5 MULTIPLE USE	6 AGRICULTURE	7 INDUSTRIAL	8 FACILITY
Non-motorized recreation	■	■		■	■	■		
Fishing	■	■		■	■	■		
Hunting	■	■			■	■	■	■
Scientific study	■				■	■		
Trapping	■				■	■		■
Trails, non-motorized				■	■	■	■	■
Transportation & utility corridors					■	■		
Primitive camping				■	■			■
Intensive recreation				■	■	■	■	■
Off-highway vehicle activity					■	■	■	
Logging					■	■		
Domestic grazing					■	■		
Petroleum and natural gas exploration & development					■	■	■	
Coal exploration					■	■	■	
Coal development					■	■	■	
Mineral exploration & development					■	■	■	
Serviced camping				■	■			■
Commercial development								
Industrial development					■		■	■
Residential subdivisions						■		
Cultivation								

■ Compatible Use — Uses that are considered to be compatible with the intent of a land use zone under normal guidelines and land use regulations.

□ Permitted Use — Uses that may be compatible with the intent of a land use zone under certain circumstances and under special conditions and controls where necessary.

□ Not Permitted Use — Uses that are not compatible with the intent or capabilities of a land use zone.

These activities are only representative of the range of activities that occur in the Eastern Slopes. For these and any other activities, the possibility of whether they should or should not take place in a particular area must always be measured against the fundamental management intentions for that zone. Since economic opportunities are not all known in advance, site-specific developments may be considered in any zone.

Response: Guideline 2, p. 51 will now read, "Coal exploration will be permitted in the O'Hagan-Adanac resources management area, subject to the appropriate mitigation of any potential wildlife management conflicts as the entire area is critical wildlife habitat, containing key elk and mule deer winter range. The appropriateness of any subsequent development of the coal resource will be determined through a preliminary disclosure and regulatory approvals. If development is allowed, mitigation must be a condition of approval."

Kind of Change: Housekeeping. Exploration was never an issue in the original guideline. The original guideline allowed development, but prescribed conditions. Senior management felt this was inappropriate and a new approach was approved in principle through cabinet committee approval of the Livingstone-Porcupine Hills IRP. The new approach leaves both the decision on the appropriateness of development and the identification of mitigatory measures up to the preliminary disclosure/ regulatory process.

Rationale: Change is consistent with senior management direction. The new guideline is written to make it clear that the plan neither supports nor prohibits development.

ITEM: **Objective 3, p. 90**

In view of the significance of Zone 2 lands in the resource managment area for the protection of elk and mule deer winter range, only underground development of coal reserves will be permitted.

Request: This guideline prohibits surface coal mining. Rewrite to relate only to compatibility of coal development, noting that the decision on development and the setting of conditions will be handled through preliminary disclosures and the regulatory process.

Change Requested By: Minerals Resources Divison, Alberta Department of Energy and the Energy Resources Conservation Board.

Response: The guideline is retained as written.

Kind of Change: This revision would require a formal amendment to the plan.

Rationale: Although consistent with the new approach for dealing with this kind of situation, the approved plan is nevertheless definitive in prescribing conditions for coal development whereas in the case of Guideline 2, p. 51 it was merely suggestive. The RRMC feels that a substantial change to a significant plan guideline should only be made through a formal plan amendment and that unless there are any specific development proposals in the interim that this change should be assessed when the first major plan review takes place.

Current Status: Minerals Resources Division and the Energy Resources Conservation Board have been informed of the decision.

ITEM: Objective 3, p. 40 and Objective 3, p. 51:

To provide opportunities for industry to explore and develop coal reserves within the resource management area exclusive of Coal Policy Category 1 lands.

Request: Reference to Coal Policy Category 1 lands should preferably be removed.

Change Requested By: Minerals Resources Division, Alberta Department of Energy.

Response: The 1977 Coal Policy remains in effect. Until a new policy is formally adopted, any change would be inappropriate.

Kind of Change: Not applicable.

Rationale: This approach is consistent with that taken in the later Livingstone-Porcupine Hills IRP. Changes to approved IRPs may be needed when and if coal categories are removed.

Current Status: The RRMC's reasons for rejecting this request were accepted by the Minerals Resources Division.

ITEM: Guideline 3, p. 62 (Castle-Carbondale Corridor Resource Management Area).

"Coal exploration and development will not be permitted in this resource management area because of its high capability, present use and demand for intensive recreation. The importance of the West

	Castle River Valley for a diverse range of tourism opportunities also renders coal exploration and development activities incompatible with the intent of the area."
Request:	Guideline falls within the situation where mineral exploration should be permitted and the appropriateness of subsequent development determined through the regulatory process.
Change Requested By:	Energy Resources Conservation Board.
Response:	The guideline is retained as written.
Kind of Change:	This revision would require a formal amendment to the plan.
Rationale:	The West Castle River Valley was identified as a "no go" area through the planning process. This is both permissible and appropriate.
Current Status:	The RRMC's reasons for rejecting the request were acceptable to the Energy Resources Conservation Board and a formal plan amendment was not submitted.

11.0 ABBREVIATIONS

The Following abbreviations are used in this report:

AFS	Alberta Forest Service (a division of Alberta Forestry, Lands & Wildlife)
AMP	Access Management Plan
F&W	Fish & Wildlife (a division of Alberta Forestry, Lands & Wildlife)
IRP	Integrated Resource Plan
Lands	Public Lands (a division of Alberta Forestry, Lands & Wildlife)
RRMC	Southern Region Regional Resource Management Committee
RMA	Resource Management Area